AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-58. (Canceled).

59. (New) An oral pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of:

(a) an active macromolecular principle which is a polypeptide or protein, polynucleotide or polysaccharide, and

(b) an aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer chosen from propyl gallate, butylated hydroxy toluene (BHT), butylated hydroxy anisole (BHA) and analogues and derivatives thereof, wherein the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer is present in an amount by weight greater than or equal to that of the active macromolecular principle, wherein the composition is coated with an enteric coating which becomes permeable at a pH of from 3 to 7, and wherein when the aromatic alcohol is propyl gallate or an analogue or derivative thereof, the composition further comprises a solubilization aid capable of increasing the solubility of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer in aqueous media.

60. (New) A composition according to claim 59, which further comprises a solubilization aid capable of increasing the solubility of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer in aqueous media.

61. (New) A composition according to claim 59, wherein the mixture comprises less than 5% by weight of water.

62. (New) A composition according to claim 59, wherein the mixture comprises at least 1% by weight of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer.

63. (New) A composition according to claim 59, wherein the ratio by weight of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer to active macromolecular principle is at least 5:1.

64. (New) A composition according to claim 59, wherein the

mixture is in the form of a solution or a microparticulate dispersion.

65. (New) A composition according to claim 59, wherein the mixture is in solid form.

66. (New) A composition according to claim 59, wherein the active macromolecular principle is a polypeptide or protein.

67. (New) A composition according to claim 59, wherein the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer is chosen from BHT, BHA and analogues and derivatives of hydroxy toluene or hydroxy anisole where the methyl group or the methoxy group linked to the aromatic ring and/or the hydrogen ortho to the hydroxyl group are replaced by linear or branched chain C_{1-2} alkyl, C_{1-12} alkyloxy, C_{1-12} alkylthio or C_{2-12} alkenyl, either unsubstituted or substituted in any position by halogen atoms.

68. (New) A composition according to claim 60, wherein the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer is propyl gallate or a linear or branched chain C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-12} alkyloxy, C_{1-12} alkylthio or C_{2-12} alkenyl ester of gallic acid, and the compounds are optionally substituted with halogen atoms, linear or branched chain C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-12} alkyloxy, C_{1-12} alkylthio or C_{2-12} alkenyl.

69. (New) A composition according to claim 60, where the solubilization aid is chosen from a bile acid or salt, benzyl alcohol, phenyl ethanol, phenoxyethanol, transcutol and isopropanol.

70. (New) A composition according to claim 59, where the active macromolecular principle is insulin, calcitonin, growth hormone, parathyroid hormone, erythropoeitin, GLP1 or

GCSF, or a derivative or analogue thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin.

71. (New) A composition according to claim 59, where the active macromolecular principle is insulin, calcitonin, parathyroid hormone or a derivative or analogue thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin.

72. (New) A composition according to claim 71, where the active macromolecular principle is insulin or a derivative or an analogue thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin and the composition further comprises an insulin sensitizing agent.

73. (New) A method of enhancing the absorption of an active macromolecular principle which is a polypeptide or protein, polynucleotide or polysaccharide in a patient, which method comprises orally administering to said patient a composition as defined in claim 59.

74. (New) A method according to claim 73, wherein the composition enhances the absorption of the active macromolecular principle across the intestinal wall.

75. (New) A method of enhancing the absorption of an active macromolecular principle which is a polypeptide or protein, polynucleotide or polysaccharide in a patient, which method comprises orally administering to said patient an aromatic alcohol chosen from propyl gallate, butylated hydroxy toulene, butylated hydroxy anisole and analogues and derivatives thereof together with a solubilization aid capable of increasing the solubility of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer in aqueous media.

76. (New) A method according to claim 74, wherein the composition comprises less than 5% by weight of water.

77. (New) A method according to claim 75, wherein the solubilization aid is selected from a conjugated bile acid or salt, benzylalcohol, phenylethanol, phenoxylethanol, transcutol and isopropanol.

78. (New) A method according to claim 74, wherein the composition is comprised in a medicament, which medicament is provided in the form of a solution, as a microparticulate dispersion or as a solid.

79. (New) A method according to claim 74, wherein the active macromolecular principle is a polypeptide or protein.

80. (New) A method according to claim 79, wherein the active macromolecular principle is insulin, calcitonin, growth hormone, parathyroid hormone, erythropoeitin, GLP1 or GCSF, or a derivative or analogue thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin.

81. (New) A method according to claim 80, wherein the active macromolecular principle is insulin, calcitonin, parathyroid hormone or a derivative or analogue thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin.

82. (New) A method according to claim 81, wherein the active macromolecular principle is insulin or a derivative or an analogue thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin and an insulin sensitizing agent is also present.

83. (New) An oral pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of:

(a) an active macromolecular principle which is a polypeptide or protein, polynucleotide or polysaccharide,

(b) an aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer selected from butylated hydroxy toulene, butylated hydroxy anisole and analogues and derivatives of hydroxy toulene or hydroxy anisole where the methyl group or the methoxy group linked to the aromatic ring and/or the hydrogen ortho to the hydroxyl group are replaced by linear or branched chain C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-12} alkyloxy, C_{1-12} alkylthio or C_{2-12} alkenyl, either unsubstituted or substituted in any position by halogen atoms, and wherein the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer is present in an amount by weight greater than or equal to that of the active macromolecular principle, and

(c) a solubilization aid capable of increasing the solubility of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer in aqueous media, which is chosen from a bile acid or salt, benzyl alcohol, phenyl ethanol, phenoxyethanol, transcutol and isopropanol, wherein the composition is coated with an enteric coating which becomes permeable at a pH of from 3 to 7.

84. (New) An oral pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of:

(a) an active macromolecular principle which is a polypeptide or protein, polynucleotide or polysaccharide,

(b) an aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer which is propyl gallate or a linear or branched chain C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-12} alkyloxy, C_{1-12} alkylthio or C_{2-12} alkenyl ester of gallic acid, and the compounds are optionally substituted with halogen, linear or branched chain C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-12} alkyloxy, C_{1-12} alkylthio or C_{2-12} alkenyl, and wherein the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer is present in an amount by weight greater than or equal to that of the active macromolecular principle, and

(c) a solubilization aid capable of increasing the solubility of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer in aqueous media, which is selected from a bile acid or salt, benzyl alcohol, phenyl ethanol, phenoxyethanol, transcutol and isopropanol, wherein the composition is coated

with an enteric coating which becomes permeable at a pH of from 3 to 7.

85. (New) A composition according to claim 59, wherein the active macromolecular principle is a polynucleotide which is single, double or triple-stranded RNA.

86. (New) A composition according to claim 85, wherein the active macromolecular principle is a polynucleotide which is double-stranded RNA.

87. (New) A composition according to claim 59, wherein the active macromolecular principle is a polysaccharide which is heparin.

88. (New) A method according to claim 74, wherein the active macromolecular principle is a polynucleotide which is single, double or triple-stranded RNA or a polysaccharide which is heparin.

89. (New) A method according to claim 88, wherein the polynucleotide is double-stranded RNA.